

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Steven E. Chester, Director

FROM: Shannon Briggs, Chairperson, Toxics Steering Group, Surface Water
Assessment Section, Water Bureau

DATE: October 7, 2005

SUBJECT: Toxics Steering Group (TSG) Meeting Minutes

Attached for your review is the September 8, 2005, TSG meeting minutes.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact me.

sb:dp

Attachment

cc/att: Dan Wyant, Director, MDA
Janet Olszewski, Director, MDCH
Stanley F. Pruss, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, MDEQ
JoAnn Merrick, Senior Executive Assistant to the Director, MDEQ
Richard A. Powers, WB, MDEQ
Diana Klemans, WB, MDEQ
George W. Bruchmann, WHMD, MDEQ
G. Vinson Hellwig, AQD, MDEQ
Amy A. Butler, ESSD, MDEQ
Harold R. Fitch, GLMD, MDEQ
Andrew W. Hogarth, RRD, MDEQ
TSG Committee Members

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TOXIC STEERING GROUP MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2005

Members:

Shannon Briggs, MDEQ/WB
Christina Rose Bush, MDCH
Dennis Bush, MDEQ/WB
Gary Butterfield, MDEQ/AQD
Michael Depa, MDEQ/AQD
Christine Flaga, MDEQ/RRD
Linda Dykema, MDCH
Brian Hughes, MDA/PPMD
Mary Lee Hultin, MDEQ/AQD
Erik Janus, MDCH

Anne Kim, MDEQ/AQD
Deborah MacKenzie-Taylor, MDEQ/WHMD
Kay Fritz, MDEQ/WHMD
Amy Merricle, MDEQ/RRD (not present)
Amy Perbeck, MDEQ/WB
Margaret Sadoff, MDEQ/AQD
Robert Sills MDEQ/AQD
Catherine Simon, MDEQ/AQD

Also in Attendance:

Jim Sygo, MDEQ
Emily Weingartz, MDEQ/WB
Tony Saucedo, MSP
Chris Hull, MDEQ/WB

1. Linda Dykema explained that a Multidisciplinary Technical Team had been formed to address potential health effects from living near Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Representatives from the MDCH, MDEQ (AQD and WB), MDA, the Lenawee County Health Department, and the Branch/Hillsdale/St. Joseph District Health Department are participating on the Multidisciplinary Technical Team. The local health departments received complaints from residents living near CAFOs regarding adverse health affects from exposure to airborne releases. At a previous meeting of the Technical Team, airborne contaminants of concern (COCs) and the potential human health effects associated with these contaminants were identified as data gaps. Dennis Armbruster (AQD) requested that the TSG conduct a review of the available literature to identify airborne COCs from CAFOs and the potential health effects for people living nearby. A subcommittee consisting of Linda Dykema, Brian Hughes, Shannon Briggs, Mary Lee Hultin, and Maggie Saddoff, as an alternate for Mary Lee, was formed to review the existing literature and current research related to CAFOs. A scoping paper reporting the results of the review will be completed by January 31, 2006.
2. Gary Butterfield agreed to serve as the next TSG chairperson. Also, it was agreed that in order to make scheduling easier, TSG meetings will be scheduled for the year by the new chairperson. If a meeting is not needed, it can be cancelled.
3. Shannon Briggs and Mary Lee Hultin reminded staff to update their sections of the TSG Annual Report on their progress on children's health and other risk assessment issues. Updates are due to Shannon Briggs by October 15, 2005.
4. Maggie Sadoff suggested that the TSG use the intranet to share documents between departments in a "read-only" format. The TSG agreed that the TSG minutes, agendas, reports, and the Acute Inhalation Toxicity Values Database should be placed on the intranet. The Acute Inhalation Toxicity Values Database is a compilation of acute toxicity values developed by several agencies for use in the evaluation of inhalation exposure to air toxics. The database is updated periodically but values are not independently evaluated or critiqued by DEQ toxicologists. The database is intended to serve as a quick resource for established acute guidelines. It does not represent all of the information available regarding acute exposures to chemicals.

5. Subcommittee chairpersons provided updates for each of the following:

- Polybrominated diphenyl ethers – Update provided by Chris Flaga.

The subcommittee started updating the report that was released in January of 2004. However, work was slowed this summer due to vacations, staffing issues in RRD, and Deb's involvement with dioxin/Dow. All indicated that the report must get finalized. Once RRD Tox Unit staffing normalizes in October, work on the report will continue.

- Dioxin – Update provided by Deb MacKenzie-Taylor.

Subcommittee members have been participating in an ongoing workgroup to identify exposure pathways and other human health risk assessment issues related to Dows' offsite corrective action. This workgroup has met frequently since June. Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment coordinated a conference call in early September for three independent reviewers to provide comments on a study design proposed by Dow/Exponent for a second pilot bioavailability study with subcommittee member participation.

- Lead – Update provided by Chris Flaga and Bob Sills.

No subcommittee news to report. The Lead Subcommittee has not met in several months since Rochelle Inglis, the previous subcommittee chair, left the department.

Bob Sills is the appointed MDEQ representative on the "Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission." The Commission is charged with evaluating the state's programs that address lead poisoning in children, and developing recommendations for improvement. To date, the Commission has had one meeting and one public hearing; another public hearing is scheduled for October 24th in Flint. Thus far, the focus has been on the MDCH and county programs, impediments to lead paint remediation efforts, and various legal issues.

- Children's Health – Update provided by Mary Lee Hultin.

The subcommittee met in late August. Highlights are being developed and will be distributed to all TSG members. The subcommittee also made a recommendation to the TSG to adopt the USEPA final Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Susceptibility from Early-Life Exposure to Carcinogens. This guidance provides adjustment factors to take into account children's differential risk. TSG members will consider this recommendation and discuss at the next meeting.

- Trichloroethylene – Update provided by Chris Flaga for Amy Merricle.

No new activity to report.

- Methamphetamine Labs – Update provided by Erik Janus.

A presentation by Detective Lieutenant Tony Saucedo of the Michigan State Police provided information about clinical, legal, and environmental concerns associated with clandestine methamphetamine labs.

- Uncertainty Factors – Update provided by Bob Sills.

No new activity to report.

- Mixtures – Update provided by Bob Sills.

No new activity to report.

- Cancer Risk – Update provided by Catherine Simon.

No new activity to report.

6. Next Meeting Agenda Items

- a. Children's Health Subcommittee recommendation.
- b. Preplanning TSG meeting dates (January, May, and September 2006).